

WAKE FOREST URBAN FORESTRY BOARD

MINUTES

November 5, 2007

Members Present: Pete Jordon, Earl Creutzburg, John Patterson, Don Daria, Jennifer McGehean, John Rich, John Pelosi, Stephanie Farley, Velma Boyd-Lawson (ex-officio), Lisa Potts (staff liaison)

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Mayor Vivian Jones, Commissioner Margaret Stinnett, Roe O'Donnell, Mike Barton, Bill Crabtree, Carol Pelosi (Wake Forest Gazette).

CALL TO ORDER

John Patterson called the regular meeting of the Wake Forest Urban Forestry Board to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Earl Creutzburg moved to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2007 meeting as submitted. Don Daria seconded and the motion carried unanimously (8-0).

OLD BUSINESS

Neighborhoods Program Name Change

After researching the name "Trees for Tomorrow" for the town's own Neighborhoods Program, we learned that there are already several programs with this title. Members discussed amending the name to either "Trees for Tomorrow Now" or "Trees for Tomorrow Today." John Pelosi made a motion to call our program the latter and John Rich seconded and the motion carried unanimously (8-0).

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on issues related to tree trimming and the role of the Urban Forestry Board.

Commissioner Margaret Stinnett was present to discuss issues concerning tree trimming vs. removal when trees interfere with overhead utilities. Her concern was that older mature trees were being removed, replaced with small caliper sized trees or that trees were not being replaced at all.

The urban forestry board (UFB) has been working with the Wake Forest Power (WFP) and making decisions on tree removal based on the current condition and health of these trees. If the tree is in poor health due to years of incorrect pruning, then the UFB concurs with the removal. If the tree(s) cannot be pruned according to American National Standards Institute (ANSI) tree pruning standards, then this would be cause for removal as well.

The UFB also recommends planting of trees that are of smaller caliper (2 ½" or 10-20 gallon). Smaller sized trees are more manageable and have a better survivability rate than larger callipered trees.

WFP is responsible for replacements when utilities are involved. Planning staff assists them when needed.

In addition, Commissioner Stinnett has on several occasions raised the issue that the UFB has too much power based on how the Vegetation section of the Wake Forest Code is written.

This issue was also discussed and Commissioner Stinnett recommended amending a portion of the text of section 34-27 of the code to read "The Town Urban Forestry Board may *advise town staff to* remove or cause or order to be removed, any tree or shrub, or part thereof, which is in an unsafe condition or which by reason of its nature is injurious to sewers, electric power lines, gas lines, water lines or other public improvements, or is infected with any injurious fungus, insect or other pest."

This change along with several others will be reviewed at a future Board of Commissioners work session. The town attorney will be advised to review this document.

Mayor Vivian Jones asked that the UFB requests an increased budget (2008-2009) fiscal year for tree planting, a Management Plan, hiring of a certified arborist/urban forester.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

John Patterson, Chairman

Lisa Potts, Planner/Secretary

